

Wolf Supermoon

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Why in News?

The first supermoon of 2026, also known as the Wolf Moon supermoon, was visible in India on the evening of January 3, 2026, shortly after sunset.

- **Wolf Supermoon** - It is a nickname that **combines two distinct ideas** - a **wolf moon & a supermoon**.

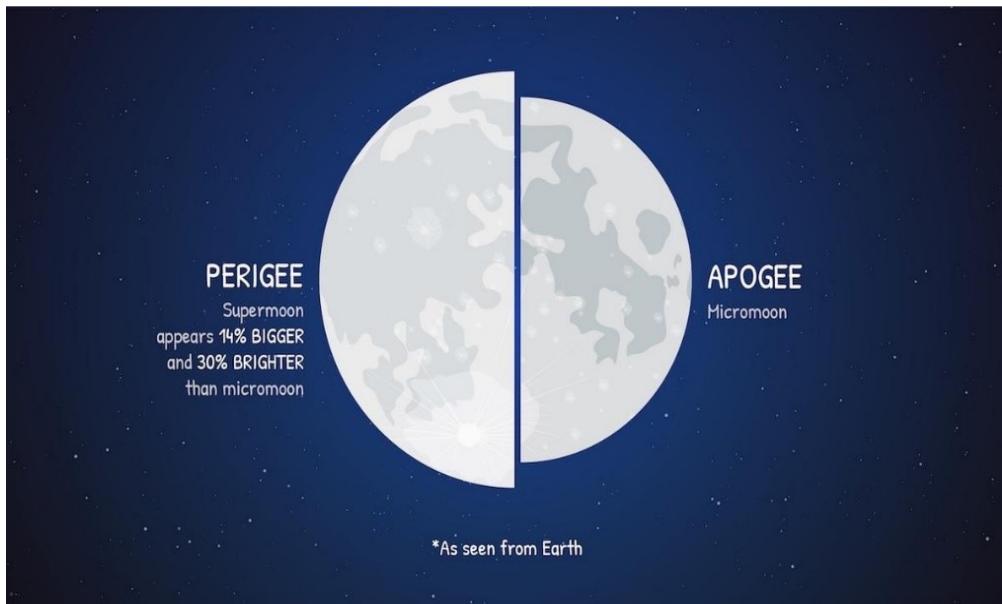
Wolf moon	Supermoon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a traditional name for the first full moon that happens in January. • Folklore Origin - Many full moons have seasonal names from calendars and folklore, which helped people track the time of the year before the advent of modern calendars. • These names helped people track seasons and agricultural cycles. • Eg: Hunter's Moon, Harvest Moon, Flower Moon. • Cultural Significance - The wolf moon is linked to wintertime stories of wolves howling more often during long, cold nights. • Alternate Names - Wolf Moon (Northern Hemisphere folklore), Moon after Yule (post-Christmas full moon). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A “supermoon” occurs when a full Moon coincides with perigee, the Moon’s closest point to Earth in its orbit. • This means that the Moon appears to be larger and brighter in the night sky. • We generally have three or four supermoons every year, so they are not rare, but it is unusual to have four in a row.

At the **perigee**, the Moon is about 220,000 miles away from Earth, compared to at its furthest point - or **apogee** - around 250,000 miles away.

Appearance of Wolf Supermoon

- **Brightest & Largest** - At its closest, the Moon appeared 30% brighter and 14% larger than the most distant full moon of the year.
- The moon will not only appear larger and brighter, but as it rises near the horizon, it will glow with an **orange-yellow hue**, positioned about 362,641 km away from Earth.

- **Moon illusion** - The moon will take on an orange-yellow hue and seem larger, a result of the ‘moon illusion’—a visual effect that makes low-hanging moons appear oversized.
- **Observation** - This supermoon can be viewed with the naked eye. However, to identify details on the moon, a telescope or binoculars can be used.



References

1. [The Hindu | Wolf Moon](#)
2. [Hindustan Times | Wolf Moon](#)